

Date: 5 March 2018

Item: Multi-lateral Interchange Fees

This paper will be considered in public

1 Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the Committee in relation to litigation commenced by TfL concerning the fees charged in respect of debit card and credit card transactions.
- 1.2 A paper is included in Part 2 of the agenda which contains exempt supplementary information. The information is exempt by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a person or authority and contains issues where a claim to legal professional privilege could be made. Any discussion of that exempt information must take place after the press and public have been excluded from the meeting.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to note the paper and the supplemental information on Part 2 of the agenda.**

3 Background

- 3.1 Multi-lateral interchanges fees (MIFs) are charged by a credit cardholder's bank to a merchant's bank on sales transactions. TfL is charged MIFs on all Visa and Mastercard transactions. Claims have been brought by many other organisations in the US and the UK on the basis that these arrangements unlawfully restrict competition and as such are anti-competitive. In the US both Visa and Mastercard are reported to have admitted liability and reached settlements with numerous retail and merchant claimants. In the UK there are a number of 'test cases' being run, the outcome of which will inform the assessment of Visa and Mastercard's overall liability. Certain UK claims are reported to have been settled, in particular one of a number of large retailers who are making claims.
- 3.2 We examined TfL's potential claims against both Visa and Mastercard on the basis that the MIFs charged unlawfully restricted competition and as such were anti-competitive. Given the assessment of the merits of the claims and the potential size of them, proceedings in the High Court covering MIFs charged during the preceding six years were issued against Visa and Mastercard on 2 August 2016. Separate but related proceedings, covering MIFs charged during an earlier period of time between 1992 and 2008, were issued in the Competition Appeal Tribunal against Mastercard on 2 September 2016. The claims have been

brought in the name of TfL and each of the subsidiaries where merchant fees have been incurred, including Transport Trading Limited.

3.3 The Committee will be kept updated as the proceedings progress.

List of Appendices to this paper

A paper containing exempt supplementary information is included in Part 2 of the agenda.

List of Background Papers:

None

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